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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 21 | Humidity 79% Light rain Sensex 82,391 | Nifty 25,104 | Gold 96,858 | Silver 1,06,969 | Dollar 85.56 | Euro 97.92 | GBP 115.78

RECLAIM CHILDHOOD

As child escapes from forced marriage, activists ask for more rehabilitation measures, stricter action to wipe out practice

PAGE 3

LED THE WAY

Replacing sodium street lights with LED ones will help BBMP save crores of rupees in electricity bills, cut power consumption

PAGE 4

Most petrol bunks in city and on its outskirts lack minimum facilities for customers as ordered by Central directive. Toilets, drinking water are too much to ask for when some stations don't have it for their own employees

FILL IT, SHUT IT... ANY OTHER FACILITY? FORGET IT

Customers also allege fuel quality manipulation

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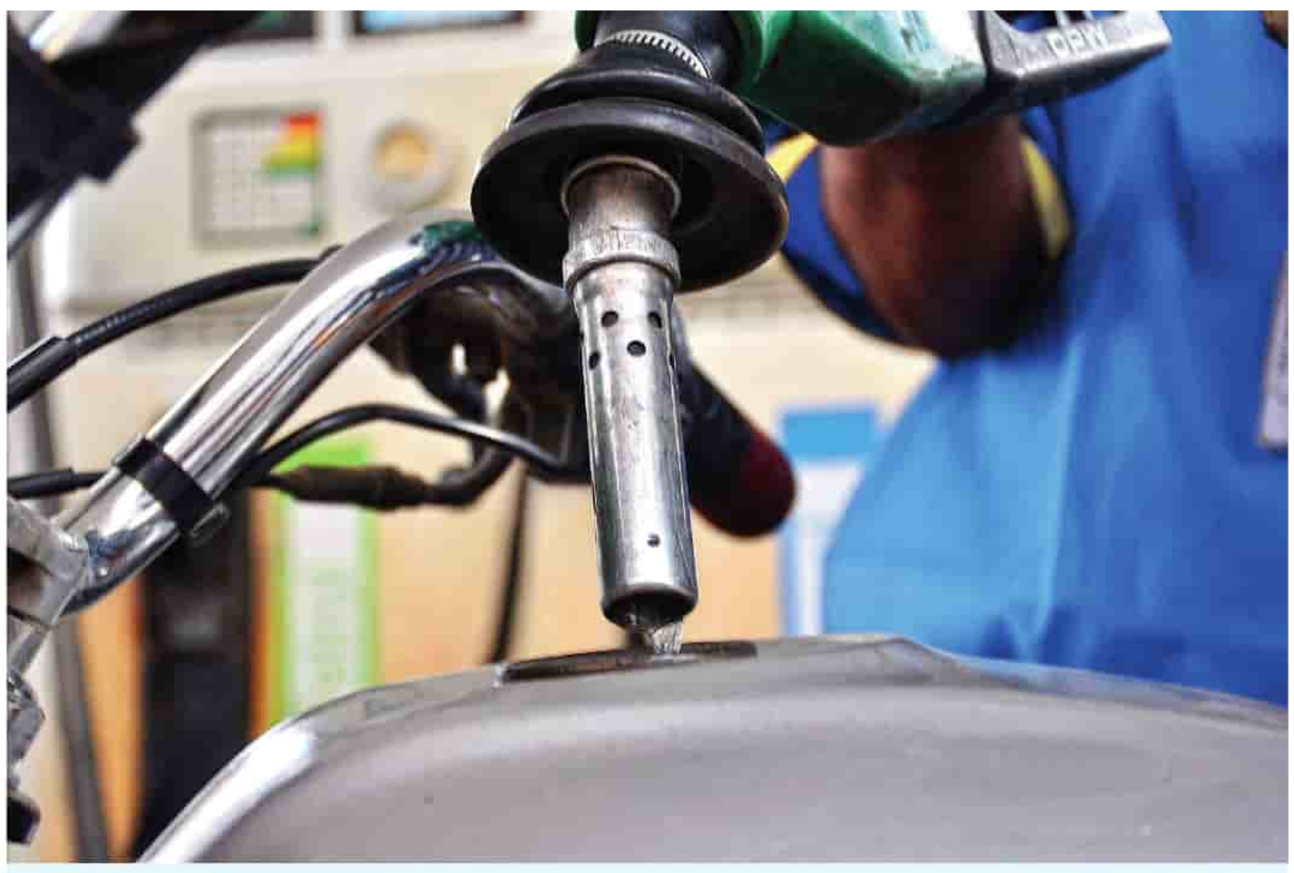

Despite clear instructions from the Central Government to ensure basic amenities for motorists at petrol pumps, most fuel stations lack even the minimum facilities for the public.

From clean drinking water and toilets to air-filling units for vehicles, such essentials have become a rarity at many petrol bunks. Authorities, it seems, have turned a blind eye to the issue, raising serious concerns about enforcement.

Sources said that essential amenities that are supposed to be mandatory under guidelines are glaringly absent. Allegations also persist that these outlets indulge in fuel quantity manipulation, cheating customers on every refill.

No water, no toilets, just business

Most petrol pumps, whether in urban areas or rural regions, merely function as fuel dispensing units. Not even a glass of water is available for customers, let alone clean and accessible toilets.

This neglect of customer needs is a common theme across the region. According to the Petroleum Ministry's directive to public-sector oil companies, every fuel station must provide drinking water and separate toilets for men and women.

Yet, in practice, drinking water is unavailable in most bunks, and where toilets exist, they are filthy, poorly maintained, or completely unusable.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 »

> **"We had installed water tanks and taps, but they were stolen. It's not feasible to maintain any facility** — Petrol bunk owner

More power to e-waste processing

201 e-waste processing units are sanctioned for state, of which just 108 are currently operational

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Karnataka is currently functioning with only 50% of the total sanctioned e-waste processing units.

Data from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) indicate that, while there are 201 sanctioned e-waste processing units in the state, 46 are closed, 47 are yet to be commissioned, and 108 are operational.

Experts say that while the number of e-waste processing units in Karnataka is not as unimpressive as many other states in the country, the number of units still needs to be scaled up.

"Looking at the amount of electronic items in the market and in every household, 108 processing units across the state is not sufficient. Moreover, the government needs to look into challenges faced by recyclers in the state and come up with policies to incentivise sustainable practices," said a recycler.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified E-waste (Management) Rules, 2022, which are effective from April 2023 and have superseded the E-waste (Management) Rules of 2016.

As per the 2016 rules, there were only 21 items of electrical and electronic equipment listed in Schedule I. However, the new

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Timeless rhythm

Designed to spotlight emerging talent in the Indian classical dance space and rekindle a collective appreciation for India's rich artistic heritage, 'Nrithya Sangamam', a classical dance showcase is presenting an evening that blends tradition, talent, and timeless rhythm. **Where: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur; When: June 14, 6 pm**

02 Art ahead

Indian Institute of Cartoonists is presenting 'Through the Eyes of RK Laxman', a tribute exhibition in 78 colourful caricatures. The evocative collection offers a rare glimpse into the keen wit and unmatched artistic observation of a man who, for decades, held up a mirror to Indian society with both humour and grace. **Where: Indian Cartoon Gallery, Sivanchetti Gardens; When: June 7 to June 28**

03 Sweet surprise

This Father's Day, Magnolia Bakery is bringing its signature charm and creativity to a unique, hands-on cupcake decorating workshop for parents and their little ones. **Where: The Yard, Whitefield; When: June 15, 11 am to 1 pm**

04 Stage beckons

Tanariri Theatres is presenting 'Matsya Avatar', a story of love, survival, and the weight of choices in the face of disaster **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: June 20, 7.30 pm**

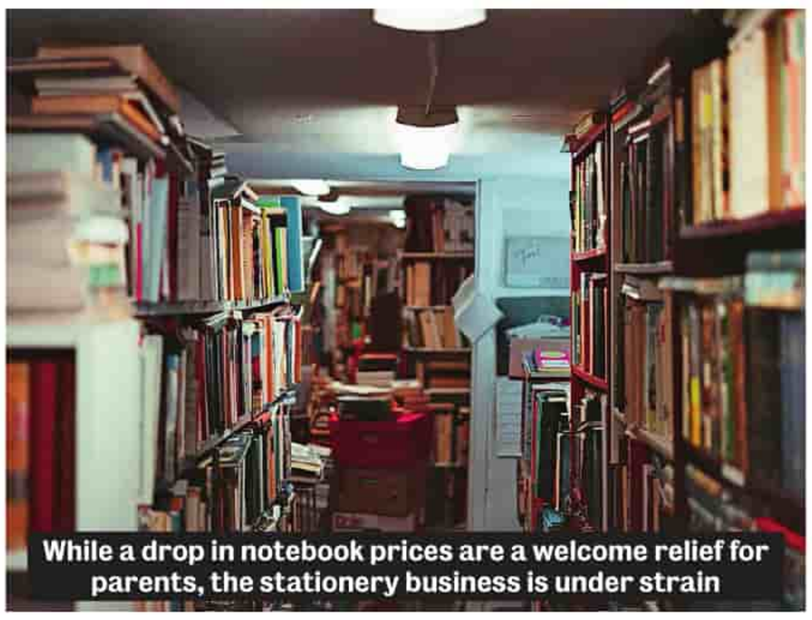
05 Jam session

Vilen, the singer-songwriter from Delhi, is set to take the stage and mesmerise the audience with his soulful music. **Where: Ignite Super Club, HSR Layout; When: June 27, 7 pm**

Stationery shops face sales slump amidst price drop

With rising operational costs paired with slow sales, reduction in bulk purchases, and pressure to offer discounts to move leftover stocks, retailers face financial burden

With schools across the city reopening, parents have started their annual shopping for school supplies. This year, a notable change came as a significant drop in notebook prices, easing the financial burden on families. Retailers attribute this decline mainly to a reduction in paper costs. At Eshwar Stationaries in Loafers Lane, Vasanth Nagar, owners Eshwar and Thaivakani noted that brands like Classmate have cut prices by Rs 5 to Rs 10. Thaivakani said, "Notebooks that sold for Rs 70 last year are now available for Rs 60 or even Rs 55, depending on brand and quantity." This price drop spans all notebook sizes—long, medium, and short.



While a drop in notebook prices are a welcome relief for parents, the stationery business is under strain

> **"Notebooks that sold for Rs 70 last year are now available for Rs 60 or even Rs 55, depending on brand and quantity**
> – Thaivakani, Owner, Eshwar Stationeries

Sales slow despite price drop

Despite the cheaper rates, retailers report that customer purchases have not increased proportionally. Eshwar explained that parents are buying only the essentials, with a significant reduction in bulk purchases. Many shoppers prefer to wait until schools open before buying additional items, leading to a slower sales cycle.

Rising costs squeeze profits

At Yeshwanth Stationary, owner Anand shared similar concerns. While customers benefit from reduced notebook prices, retailers face shrinking profit margins. "Operational costs such as rent and transport haven't decreased, so despite lower notebook prices, our profits are under pressure," he said. Anand also pointed out that prices of other stationery items—pens, pencils, geometry boxes—have remained mostly unchanged, with some variation based on brand or origin. Imported products, in particular, see price fluctuations tied to supply costs.

"I sell a full bulk of books for Rs 1,000 in my shop, but for my children, the school demands Rs 3,000 for the same set. Even as a retailer, I am forced to purchase from them," said Anand.

Leftover stocks pose challenges

Another challenge retailers face is excess inventory from the previous academic year. Slow sales last year resulted in leftover stock that is now harder to clear, especially as new supplies arrive. "We are offering discounts to make space," said one shopkeeper.

A tough year ahead

While falling notebook prices are a welcome relief for parents, the stationery business is under strain. Reduced consumer spending, rising operational costs, and the pressure to offer discounts are making profitability difficult. As the new academic year begins, the divide is clear—parents benefit from affordable essentials, but local retailers bear the financial burden. For stationery shops, sustained community support may be crucial to survive this challenging season. **— Achala Nataraj**

'Cat named Daisy has driven all crazy'

The Karnataka High Court has nullified legal proceedings against a man who was accused of unlawfully keeping a cat called Daisy in his residence. Justice M Nagaprasanna, presiding as a single-judge bench, granted the petition by Taha Husain. The accused faced charges under IPC Sections 504, 506, and 509, based on a complaint by Nikitha Anjana Iyer.

The court declared, "Petition is allowed and the proceedings stand quashed," and remarked verbally, "Cat named Daisy has driven everyone crazy." The court expressed dismay at the police's decision to register the complaint, noting the absence of any actual offence beyond a missing cat. It found no elements of offences under Sections 504, 506, or 509 of the IPC in the allegations. The court's detailed observation highlighted that Section 509, which addresses outraging a woman's modesty, had no relevance to a case about a missing cat. It criticised the police for entertaining a complaint that showed neither cognisable nor non-cognisable offences.

The court warned against allowing such trivial grievances to develop into criminal trials, stating it would waste judicial resources and divert police attention from genuine cases. It described the case as a "melodrama woven around a cat". The case originated when Daisy, the complainant's cat, reportedly went missing after jumping between neighbouring walls. CCTV footage allegedly showed the cat in the petitioner's house. The court concluded by admonishing the police for their "whimsical pursuit of justice for a cat named Daisy" and reminded all parties that law is a serious instrument, not a tool for personal grievances. **— BMB**

Bengaluru's shining stars: The duo that made it global

Bengaluru-born twin sisters Tara and Trisha, just 16 years old, are making waves in the international music scene—balancing high school with studio sessions and live performances in Los Angeles.

Currently pursuing open schooling to accommodate their fast-growing careers, the duo—known simply as Tara & Trisha—made the shift from mainstream education in Bengaluru when an opportunity to work on music projects in the US came their way. "Our old school, Bethany, was so supportive. They helped us shift to open schooling, which has really helped us balance both school and music," the sisters shared.

The twins' latest release 'Outside the Lines', reflects their journey of stepping away from the conventional

The twins' latest release 'Outside the Lines', reflects their journey of stepping away from the conventional path

path. The track, written and recorded with Los Angeles-based producer BLUJAY, explores the idea of being true to oneself and resisting societal pressure to conform. "It's about being different and celebrating that," they said, adding that the phrase "colouring outside the lines" was the spark behind the song's theme.

They explained that the creative process was fluid and collaborative. "We don't have a fixed songwriting strategy. Sometimes we start with lyrics, sometimes with melody," said

Tara and Trisha, the duo that's steadily building a musical identity rooted in authenticity, diversity, and a strong sense of self

Tara. "One of us might have a better day with lyrics, the other with harmonies—but we guide each other through it," she said.

Despite their similarities, the sisters say they are polar opposites in personality. "Trisha loves sweet things and baking; I'm all about spicy food and adventure," expressed Tara, adding that the contrast is what makes their creative process dynamic.

Raised in a musically inclined home—with influences ranging from ABBA to The Carpenters and rock 'n' roll—their Indian roots continue to play a key role in shaping their sound. One of their earlier songs, Bo2gedda, blended Indian musical elements with Western pop, creating a cross-cultural fusion. When asked about future plans, the twins expressed their interest in exploring various genres before settling into a distinct sound. "We want to stay open to different styles. We're still figuring out what feels most like us," they said.

Now based in LA and actively working on new material, Tara and Trisha are steadily building a musical identity rooted in authenticity, diversity, and a strong sense of self—charting a course that's all their own.

— Nishika Kabir

Despite child-marriage being punishable by law, persistent cases reveal concerning pattern of blatant disregard for law, underline implementation lapses and need for different measures

CELEBRATE THE BRAVERY

Activists demand felicitation of girl who opposed marriage

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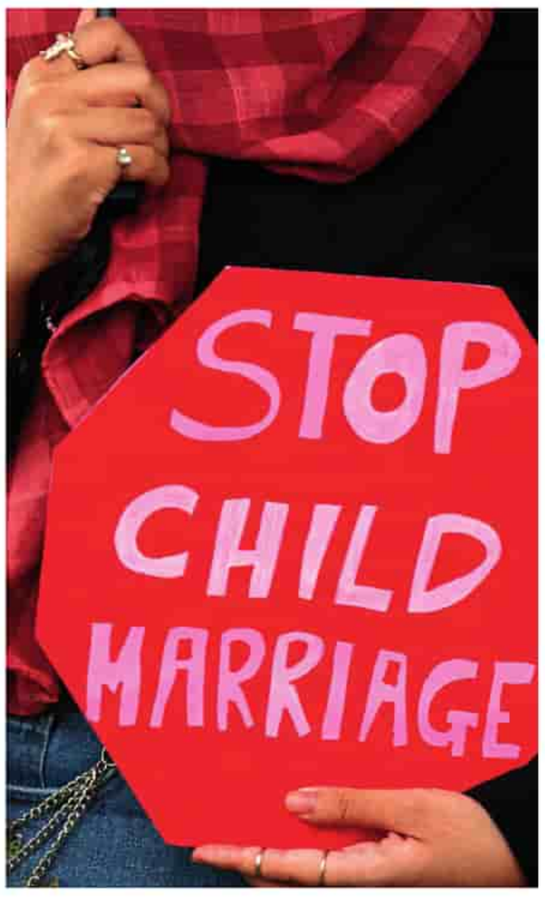

Child rights activists have urged the state government to felicitate a ninth standard student from Challakere taluk in Chitradurga district, who has set an example by successfully resisting a forced marriage attempt by her parents and relatives. They opine that the government should encourage and support such girls who want to end the menace of child marriage in the state.

Condemning the child marriage attempt and appreciating the girl for refusing to comply, Nagasimha G Rao, a child rights activist, said that he has written a letter to Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara to make arrangements to felicitate and honour the girl for resisting the forced marriage attempt by her parents and relatives. "I demand the government to take stringent action against those responsible for the incident. I want the government to protect the girl by providing all amenities," said Rao. He highlighted that felicitating the girl would send a message to the society about the importance of preventing child marriages, while also allowing the girl to become a role model for others who may be vulnerable to child marriage.

Expressing a similar opinion, Dr Thippeswamy KT, a member of Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, said that he had visited the girl and also met her parents. "The girl is in Shishu Mandir. Counselling and medical treatment are being provided to her. I have also advised the Tahsildar of Challakere to arrange a felicitation function for the girl and also a massive awareness programme at tribal hamlets around Challakere to prevent child marriages," he said, adding that he will discuss the felicitation plans during the meeting at Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights in Bengaluru.

According to sources, the authorities in Chitradurga district have received 162 complaints of child marriages in the year 2024-25, and 88 child marriages were prevented. Additionally, the police have registered 77 First Information Reports (FIRs) against those responsible for child marriages. Amongst the 74 FIRs, 28 were related to Scheduled Castes, 6 were related to Scheduled Tribes, 7 were against minorities, and 33 were related to general categories.

It is said that Shivamogga, with 79 FIRs, leads with the highest number of registered cases. Followed by Belagavi with 78 FIRs, Chitradurga with 74 FIRs, Bagalkote (74 FIRs), Mysuru (60 FIRs), Bengaluru Urban (30 FIRs) and Bengaluru Rural with 24 FIRs in the year 2024-25.

Demanding the state government to make arrangements for the girl's education free of cost, Dr Vasudeva Sharma NV, State Convenor, Karnataka Child Rights Observatory, wrote a letter to the Chief Minister requesting a cabinet discussion on the menace of child marriages in the state. "I want the state government to honour the girl and recognise her willpower to resist forced marriage. I want the government to amend the RTE Act to provide free education to girls up to 18 years, and also increase the punishment for those responsible for child marriages," said Dr Sharma.

Women and child rights advocate Anjali Ramanna said that honouring or recognising the resistance of the girl may inspire many more to follow her path.

"However, one must not forget that unless you educate a girl and make her financially independent, this resistance will not take her a long way," said Ramanna, adding that it is essential to empower girls with knowledge and make them capable of forming their own opinions.

CM expresses concern

During a state-level review meeting on May 30, CM Siddaramaiah expressed frustration over persistent child marriages despite existing laws. He revealed that in 2024-25 alone, 700 child marriages were solemnised, 2,349 were successfully prevented out of 3,049 attempts, and 3,489 POCSO cases were reported, with 685 involving teenage pregnancies.

He criticised district officials for failing to file FIRs and called these enforcement lapses "unacceptable." The CM instructed strict legal action and better monitoring of child marriage cases. Child rights activists say that the Tumakuru case is yet another example of why Karnataka needs a more child-centric approach, one that not only rescues minors but also protects them from being pushed back into unsafe environments.

Runaway's rescue sparks call for stricter measures against child-marriage

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A 14-year-old girl from Uttar Pradesh, who ran away from home to escape a forced marriage, was rescued by the Kyathasandra Police in Tumakuru district late on June 6. Her story has reignited the debate around child marriage and the protection of runaway minors, highlighting the urgent need for long-term safeguards in Karnataka and beyond.

According to police officials, the girl had confided in a male friend about her parents' plan to get her married against her will. The friend allegedly took advantage of the situation, convincing her to steal some money and promising to find her work in Bengaluru. The duo eventually arrived in the city and began working at a construction site as daily-wage labourers.

During this time, the girl was reportedly harassed and assaulted by the same man she had trusted. Based on a public tip-off received around 11 pm on Thursday, the Kyathasandra Police Station, along with officers from the Women's Police Station, raided a shed behind the Namaste Tumakuru Restaurant near the Jas Toll on Tumakuru's outskirts, where the girl was found in distress. "She had clearly run away fearing a forced marriage and ended up in even more danger," said a police official while speaking to BM.

Investigations revealed that a missing person's case and a kidnapping complaint had already been filed by the girl's family at a local police station in Malava, Uttar Pradesh. The girl was temporarily housed at the Sakhi One Stop Centre and later handed over to her parents after UP police arrived in Tumakuru on June 8. The male friend and two others were arrested and sent back to Uttar Pradesh for further investigation.

Post-rescue rehabilitation

However, the case has raised wider concerns about what happens after such rescues. "What assurance is there that this girl won't be forced into marriage again?" asked a senior child rights activist in Bengaluru. "There must be post-rescue rehabilitation, legal aid, and monitoring," said the activist, adding that failure to do so would allow the cycle of abuse to continue.

Woman killed, man injured in chain collision on MG Road

A 36-year-old woman was killed and a man seriously injured in a chain collision involving a speeding goods vehicle at Mayo Hall Junction on MG Road around 6.33 pm on Monday.

Haneez PK was waiting at the red signal in a car. A goods vehicle, reportedly driven at high speed and recklessly, rammed into his car from behind. The impact pushed the car forward, hitting another vehicle and a motorcycle carrying Vijayakumar (40) and his pillion rider Anjali (36).

The collision threw both motorcyclists onto the road. The goods vehicle ran over Anjali, causing fatal head and facial injuries. Vijayakumar sustained serious injuries to his right hand and leg. The goods vehicle then struck two more vehicles and came to a halt after hitting a signal pole, leaving its front end severely damaged. Passersby and traffic police rushed the victims to Hasmat Hospital.

Anjali was declared brought dead, while Vijayakumar is undergoing treatment. The goods vehicle driver is absconding. **BMB**

ED attaches 92 MUDA sites

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru Zonal Office, attaches 92 immovable properties MUDA sites with an estimated market value of Rs 100 crore under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The action is part of the ongoing investigation into the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) allotment scam.

According to ED official press release the properties are registered in the names of individuals and housing cooperative societies allegedly acting as fronts for influential figures, including MUDA officials. In the illegal site allotment case, bribes were accepted and MUDA plots were given to ineligible beneficiaries by creating fake documents. Investigations have revealed that the sites were allotted in violation of government orders. The ED probe also revealed that the money was transferred through the bank accounts of relatives and associates of MUDA officials. **BMB**

11 students injured as school bus overturns

11 students of Delhi Public School sustained minor injuries after their school bus overturned near Chikkabidarakallu, Bengaluru North Taluk, on Tuesday morning. The incident occurred while the bus was picking up children from nearby villages in the morning.

According to police, the bus overturned as the driver attempted to dangerously overtake another school vehicle, the driver lost control and the bus fell to its side.

The injured children were immediately rushed to a private hospital by residents and passersby. Fortunately, no fatalities were reported.

However, the incident has sparked outrage among parents, who are demanding strict action against the driver and accountability from the school management. **BMB**

LED there be light, says BBMP to save power

Bengaluru to replace sodium lamps with smart LEDs, targeting 85% energy savings, ₹700 crore contractor payments, and improved streetlight monitoring via sensors

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By replacing traditional sodium street lights with energy-efficient LED lights, BBMP is set to save hundreds of crores in annual electricity costs, reducing power consumption by over 85% and significantly cutting its ₹380 crore yearly electricity bill. Bengaluru is set to phase out traditional sodium street lights and replace them with LED lights, marking the start of a long-awaited, ambitious project aimed at saving hundreds of crores annually in electricity costs. After six years of planning, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is finally implementing the initiative to cut energy expenses by removing conventional street lights and installing energy-efficient LEDs.

A BBMP official said, "The BBMP had commissioned a private company to conduct surveys across seven out of eight BBMP zones (excluding Mahadevapura) to assess the feasibility, cost, energy savings, and financial model for this transition. Based on the survey report, the zones were divided into four packages, tenders finalised, and contracts awarded, with LED installations set to begin from June."

Currently, Bengaluru has about 5,37,000 street lights consuming over 51.5 crore units of electricity annually, costing the BBMP approximately ₹380 crore every year, including a ₹330 crore electricity bill paid to BESCOM. The recent electricity tariff hike has further escalated costs. With 40% of the city's street lights already converted to LEDs through BBMP grants and support from local MLAs and corporators, approximately 2 lakh LED street lights are already in place. However, many of these LEDs have exceeded their warranty periods, transferring maintenance responsibilities to contractors.

Bengaluru has about 5.37 lakh street lights which consumes over 51.5 crore units of electricity annually

The new contracts require companies to maintain and operate the LED street lights for seven years, with BBMP making monthly payments totalling ₹700 crore over the contract period. Besides street lights, the project includes installation of CCTV cameras, pollution sensors, and motion detectors on electric poles. Each streetlight will be equipped with a motion sensor and linked to a centralised control system that monitors and adjusts brightness remotely, targeting an estimated 85.5% reduction in energy consumption. The savings will help BBMP cover electricity bills and contractor payments.

In past attempts, a contract awarded in 2018 to a consortium led by Shapoorji Pallonji was cancelled due to delays in LED installation. The project has now been restructured into four packages covering seven zones, with new tenders completed and contracts issued. The centralised monitoring system will instantly detect faults and allow remote control of lighting intensity, ensuring efficient management of street lights across the city. A BBMP official added, "This large-scale transition to LED street lighting is expected to bring significant financial and environmental benefits, easing the city's power burden and ensuring better-maintained, smarter public lighting."

> **"This large-scale transition to LED street lighting is expected to bring significant financial and environmental benefits, easing the city's power burden and ensuring better-maintained, smarter public lighting**
> – BBMP Official

Stagnant wastewater sparks health crisis fears

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The residents of White Rose Layout have been facing a lot of problems due to grey water that is being let onto the roads by people managing paying guest accommodations. The residents complain that it has become a herculean task for pedestrians and motorists, especially two-wheeler riders, to use 4th and 5th Cross Roads of White Rose Layout.

Due to indiscriminate pumping of grey water by the people managing the paying guest accommodations that have no sanitary connections, the roads are not only slushy but also stinky. They said that they have been complaining to the authorities concerned, including the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) authorities to take action against those letting grey water onto the roads but in vain.

"We have already sent photos and videos of grey water on the roads. We expected the authorities to take action against those paying guest accommodations that are constructed illegally," said a resident, pleading anonymity.

Expressing concern over the nuisance on the roads, Naveen Kumar, a resident, said stagnated grey water on the roads have become a nuisance and a health hazard for the residents. "I want the authorities concerned to take action against those buildings constructed without an approved plan from the BBMP. There are some PG accommodations with ground plus six floors on a 30x40 site. These PG accommodations are constructed illegally and deserve either to be sealed or demolished by the authorities," said Naveen Kumar.

Appealing to the authorities to ensure the roads and drains are free from grey water, Balaji Angamuthu, a resident, said the people managing the PG accommodations pump grey water into the drain and onto the road at night. "We are not able to take our vehicles out due to grey water on the roads. We are also worried about our health due to the unhygienic atmosphere here. We have been complaining to the authorities but they fail to fix the problem due to the reasons best known to them," he said. Meanwhile, BWSSB Assistant Engineer Ravi Kumar said that he has received complaints on grey water issues from the residents. "I will send BWSSB workers to the spot. Based on their report, I will issue notices to the people managing the PG accommodations for letting grey water onto the roads and into the drains," the engineer said.

However, the residents want the BWSSB and the BBMP authorities, instead of giving assurances, to fix the problem immediately.

Left: Condition of the road at White Rose Layout; Right: Roads become slushy due to letting of grey water by PC accommodations

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Road neglect

Mahalakshmipuram

In Mahalakshmipuram and Nagapura, an unfinished BWSSB road lies dug-up for over eight months, causing accidents, dust, and foul smell near a hospital.

Park hazard

Kacharakanahalli

At BDA ABC Park on 3rd Main, St Thomas Town, damaged play equipment endangers children, raising serious safety concerns for local families

Pothole peril

Rangaswamy

Rangaswamy Gudi Street near Balepet Main Road is filled with potholes, creating dangerous conditions for motorists and needing immediate repair.

Namma Metro taps ads to boost revenue stream

BMRCL earns big from coach ads, naming rights, and rentals as non-ticket income becomes key to post-pandemic financial recovery and sustainability

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Metro coaches now double as mobile billboards, boosting BMRCL's non-ticket revenue through innovative advertising strategies

The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and the Railways have been trying to cash in on the transit media by allowing the advertisers to display posters on the vehicles. Even a few cab aggregators have tried the same. Now, the Namma Metro is displaying advertising on the exterior rail coaches so that it can rake in some moolah in the form of non-ticket revenue.

A BMRCL official said, "As our metro network expands, our revenue is also increasing, particularly from non-ticket sources, which have surged significantly and helped the organisation return to profitability. After over a decade of losses, the metro has finally bounced back. Although the COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted our finances, we have now recovered, with non-ticket revenue playing a crucial role in our financial revival. To further boost non-fare revenue, BMRCL plans to utilise outdoor advertising spaces on metro trains and stations."

It may be noted that the BMRCL has achieved a record revenue of Rs 171 crore, the highest in the past 11 years. This marks a significant increase compared to previous years when non-ticket revenue was minimal. In the first two years of metro operations, non-ticket revenue exceeded ticket revenue, but as the metro network expanded, ticket revenue grew. To date, BMRCL has earned a total of Rs 563 crore from non-ticket sources. "To further boost non-ticket revenue, BMRCL is exploring various options such as advertising, parking fees, naming rights for stations, and leasing space for shops inside stations. Recently, Biocon Foundation paid Rs 65 crore for the naming rights of Hebbagodi station, and Delta Electronics India Private Limited paid Rs 75 crore for the naming rights and walkway access at Bommasandra station. Additionally, Bosch Limited has invested Rs 10 crore for direct walkway access at Lakkasandra station. These initiatives are essential for the financial sustainability of the metro."

> **As our metro network expands, our revenue is also increasing, particularly from non-ticket sources, which have surged and helped profitability**

Officials said that metro's ticket revenue is currently sufficient to cover operational expenses. "Last year, we earned Rs 422.6 crore from ticket sales, while operational expenses amounted to Rs 486 crore. Excluding the two years affected by COVID-19, ticket revenue in 2018-19 was Rs 355 crore, with operational expenses at Rs 335 crore, resulting in a profit of Rs 20 crore. In 2017-18, ticket revenue was Rs 281 crore and operational expenses were Rs 262 crore, resulting in a profit of Rs 19 crore. However, during the first four years of operation, our metro incurred losses. Now, we hope to garner additional revenue in the form of outdoor advertising. Now, the Metro pillars are also allowed for display of advertising boards", added an official.

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Serial hugger, kisser nabbed

A 37-year-old man, who allegedly hugged and kissed two women in separate incidents near Milton Park in Cooke Town, under the Pulakeshinagar police limits has been arrested.

The accused, identified as Madan, a BSc Computer Science graduate and former software professional from Banaswadi, was on a walk with his family. According to police, Madan approached a woman and forcibly kissed her. Shortly before that, he hugged another woman, in a different part of the park around 6.45 pm and allegedly repeated the same act.

The victims filed a complaint stating that an unknown man had violated their dignity. One of the women detailed in her complaint that the man kissed her, left her injured and bleeding and then followed and assaulted another victim in a similar manner.

Pulakeshinagar police examined CCTV footage along a 6-7 kilometre stretch before identifying and arresting Madan. A case has been registered under relevant sections, and further investigation is underway.

BM had reported on Monday about the ordeal the women had to go through. However, both the victims have confirmed that the police response was prompt and the complaints were filed immediately. The FIR was registered immediately too.

—BMB

Stampede: Response in sealed cover okayed

The Karnataka High Court on June 10 allowed the State to submit its response in a sealed cover regarding a suo motu petition concerning the Bengaluru stampede. The incident occurred outside Chinnaswamy stadium during celebrations of Royal Challenger Bangalore's (RCB) victory in the 2025 IPL Final.

The court had initiated suo motu proceedings on June 5, following the incident, and had directed the Karnataka Government to explain the cause and prevention measures. The tragedy resulted in 11 fatalities and over 30 injuries. RCB secured their first IPL trophy since the tournament's 2008 inception by defeating Punjab Kings on June 3.

During today's proceedings, Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty informed the division bench, comprising Acting Chief Justice and Justice CM Joshi, that he had not yet filed the response.

The Advocate General stated, "Judicial commission is set up and one month time is given to give report. Police officers are suspended. In the bail petitions pending, whatever is said here is being used by the accused there". When the bench questioned whether he was refusing to comply with their directions, the Advocate General requested a day's extension, citing certain considerations.

Upon the court's inquiry about filing difficulties, the Advocate General expressed concerns about open court proceedings and potential prejudice, requesting time for an independent inquiry report.

The court instructed the State to deliver the response directly and indicated it would address impleading applications later.

The next hearing is scheduled for Thursday.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday, the High Court also heard the plea of RCB's marketing head Nikhil Sosale, who was arrested in the case. He contended there was insufficient evidence for his arrest, and the FIR did not mention his name.

Civic group urges review of police suspensions

Citizens for Citizens (C4C), a Bengaluru-based civic collective, has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah urging a review of the suspension orders issued against police officials following the stampede

In a letter dated June 10, the group said the tragedy was preventable with better planning, coordination and execution by all authorities involved. While welcoming the ongoing inquiries, C4C termed the immediate suspension of police personnel as unfair and demoralising, especially in the absence of action against other senior officials or elected representatives.

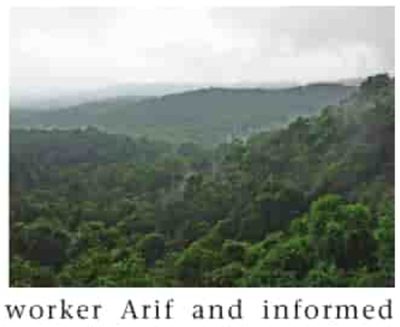
Vatal Nagaraj detained during protest

Pro-Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj was briefly detained by Vidhana Soudha police on Tuesday after he and his supporters marched towards Raj Bhavan, protesting the government's handling of the stampede

Nagaraj, who was later released, demanded the compensation for victims be raised to ₹5 crore and criticised the suspension of police officials.

—BMB

Medicos lost during trek rescued



A group of 10 medical college students who lost their way while trekking in the Western Ghats near the Ballalarayana Durga fort were rescued in a dramatic midnight operation on Monday.

The students, five boys and five girls — had embarked on a trek to the popular Bandaje Falls from the Belthangady side in Dakshina Kannada district. While attempting to ascend towards Ballalarayana Durga, they lost their way and became stranded deep in the forest.

After managing to get mobile network coverage, the students contacted local social worker Arif and informed him of their situation. Arif immediately alerted the forest and police departments. A 20-member rescue team, led by Arif, Kalsa Range Forest Officer Nishchith, and Balur Police Inspector Dileep, launched a late-night search.

Volunteers joined the effort and successfully located the students. According to the tempo traveller driver, the group's vehicle had been parked near Durgadahalli. All students were rescued safely.

—BMB

Karnataka to protect 317 more ancient heritage sites

New proposal ensures legal safeguards, government funding, and strict restrictions to preserve Karnataka's ancient temples, forts, wells, and inscriptions

Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Monuments over 100 years old qualify for protection under Karnataka's 1961 and 1965 heritage laws

Zone-wise Proposed Protected Monuments

Bengaluru Division	62
Mysuru Division	168
Belagavi Division	43
Kalaburagi Division	44
Total	317

> **Karnataka aims to protect over 1,000 monuments; 317 recommended for heritage preservation** —A Devaraju

The Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage has proposed to the state government the inclusion of 317 monuments including the renowned Bhoganandeeshwara Temple at Nandi Hills in the protected heritage list. This move is aimed at ensuring legal protection, preventing encroachments, and enabling government funding for maintenance and preservation.

Karnataka currently has 848 monuments listed as protected. However, officials have identified over 1,000 other sites of historical and cultural significance across the state that remain unprotected. The new proposal to include 317 of these monuments under the protected category marks the beginning of a phased plan to safeguard the state's ancient heritage.

The list includes religious sites, ancient wells, forts, and other structures spread across various districts. Once declared protected, these sites will receive legal safeguards against encroachments and unauthorised constructions. The move will also allow for structured government funding to support preservation efforts.

Under the Karnataka Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Acts of 1961 and 1965, any monument, temple, tomb, inscription, or stone structure over 100 years old is eligible for protection. The department is currently conducting field surveys to identify and document such unprotected heritage sites.

To ensure local coordination, Deputy Commissioners have been instructed to submit detailed records and data on unprotected monuments in their respective jurisdictions. Once a site is declared protected, any construction that could overshadow or obstruct its visibility will be prohibited.

Commissioner of the Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage, A Devaraju, said the department has already issued preliminary notifications for a few of these sites. "We aim to declare more than 1,000 unprotected monuments in the state as protected. A detailed list has been prepared, and we've recommended the first 317 monuments to the government," he said. He added that the phased initiative will provide much-needed legal backing and ensure scientific maintenance.

In addition to government support, the department plans to invite private organisations and community groups to adopt monuments under heritage management schemes. This will encourage public participation in the preservation of Karnataka's cultural legacy.

Once the final notification is issued, the selected sites will officially come under the care of the department, ensuring their conservation for future generations. This initiative aims to prevent loss of historic structures from neglect, urbanisation across Karnataka.

Nandini's bold plastic-free move

In a major step towards environmental sustainability, Karnataka Milk Federation's (KMF) flagship brand Nandini has initiated the use of biodegradable corn-based milk packet covers. This pilot project has been launched in Hunasanahalli village, located in Kanakapura taluk of Bengaluru South district.

The initiative aims to address the environmental harm caused by traditional plastic covers, which have long posed disposal challenges for urban local bodies. Bamul (Bangalore Urban, Rural and Ramanagara District Cooperative Milk Union Ltd), a key KMF affiliate, has taken the lead by trialling compostable milk packets that naturally decompose in soil.

Despite regulations against single-use plastics, milk distribution has largely continued using polythene packets that take over a century to break down. To counter this, Bamul has procured two lakh biodegradable covers made from corn-based material, sourced from Chennai. **— BMB**

Chennai-Bengaluru route gets upgrade

The Bengaluru-Nangali road that connects Bengaluru to eastern parts of the country like Chennai, Tirupati and beyond will soon be six-laned.

Currently, the stretch from KR Puram to Hoskote is already six-laned, while the road from Hoskote to Nangali (Karnataka-Andhra Pradesh border) remains four-laned. With increasing traffic congestion on the latter section, road accidents have also been on the rise, prompting action from authorities.

Kolar MP M Mallesh Babu confirmed that a proposal to widen the road into a six-lane highway, along with four service roads, has received approval. A detailed project report worth ₹2,400 crore has been prepared. To enhance safety, the plan includes installing barricades and limiting entry and exit points to every 10 to 15 km. JSR toll concession on NH75 ended; project transferred to NHAI, noted Babu. **— BMB**

MP orders fencing, Shikaripalya lake gets lifeline

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents urge authorities to fence the lake after repeated debris and garbage dumping incidents

Shikaripalya Lake is again in the news. The lake was rejuvenated a few years ago at an estimated cost of Rs 1.50 crore but dumping debris and garbage continues due to lack of a fence around the water body. Residents have been running pillar to post to fix this problem for more than a year but finally they are happy with Bengaluru Rural MP Dr CN Manjunath directing Anekal Tahsildar Shashidhar to take measures to fix the problem and save Shikaripalya Lake.

Despite the investment in rejuvenation, the lake remains under threat due to unchecked dumping of waste and sewage inflow. The absence of a protective fence has left the area vulnerable, causing frustration among residents who have consistently raised the issue with local authorities.

On January 31, 2024 edition, Bangalore Mirror published a report titled Make or Break Lake, detailing how Shikaripalya Lake was drying up even before summer had begun, largely due to pollution and neglect.

"I am deeply worried about the lake. Many are dumping garbage and construction debris, and untreated sewage is also entering the water. We have been urging officials to fence the lake to prevent further damage," said Ishaan Singh, a resident.

After over a year of efforts by the community, residents say they are finally seeing hope. Bengaluru Rural MP Dr CN Manjunath responded promptly when approached, directing revenue officials to act on the matter. "He was very supportive. After I met him, he immediately instructed officials to visit the site. They came on June 9 and promised that fencing work will begin after a feasibility check," said Mani Ranjan, another resident.

BangaloreMirror
Half of Shikaripalya Lake is a playground now as waterbody dries up rapidly amid lack of fencing, sewage treatment plant
MAKE OR BREAK LAKE
Waterbody rejuvenated as part of private firm's CSR

BM'S report on 31st Jan 2024

> **Protecting water bodies is our duty, increasing groundwater, and preventing sewage entry to ensure potable water** –Dr CN Manjunath

Anekal Tahsildar Shashidhar confirmed the MP's instructions. "I will ask the Panchayat Development Officer to submit a report. The fencing will be completed within 30 days," he assured.

Dr Manjunath stressed the importance of conserving water bodies. "Protecting lakes is vital for groundwater recharge and ensuring clean water must be a priority," he said.

Caste data will be collected again

Re-enumeration process must be done within stipulated time, party suggests to CM

The Congress top brass on Tuesday said it has decided to hold re-enumeration of caste data in Karnataka to address concerns of some communities who complained of being left out of the survey that was conducted 10 years ago.

The decision was taken at a high-level meeting of the party that also reviewed the government's handling of the Bengaluru stampede that claimed 11 lives on June 4.

The caste census emerged as one of the key state issues discussed in a meeting where Congress President Mallikarjuna Kharge, senior leader Rahul Gandhi, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) President and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar were among those present.

Briefing the media after the meeting, AICC General Secretary K C Venugopal said: "The caste census was discussed. The Congress party is thinking that whatever the Karnataka government has done in the caste census should be agreed to in principle. But there are some apprehensions from some sections and communities about the counting of the caste." He noted that the state government had conducted the caste census a decade ago and the data was now outdated.

"The Congress party has suggested to the chief minister to do a re-enumeration process within a stipulated time, say 60-80 days. This is what we decided about the caste census in the meeting," he added.

The move comes close on the heels of the Centre announcing the schedule of the national Census with caste enumeration.

The Congress leadership also discussed the current political situation and other issues, including the tragic June 4 stampede in Bengaluru that claimed 11 lives during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL victory celebrations outside the Chinnaswamy Stadium.

File photo of an enumerator visiting a house in Ganesh Pet, Hubballi to collect details of a family

The chief minister and the KPCC president briefed the leadership about the incident and the action taken by the state government, Venugopal said.

"Certainly, we are very much concerned about every human life. An unfortunate incident has happened. The government of Karnataka has already ordered a judicial inquiry to find out what exactly happened," he said.

While the party chose not to delve into the specifics during the ongoing judicial inquiry, Venugopal emphasised that the Congress had a "clear view that there should be a clear-cut pro-people attitude on this issue".

> **"Several ministers and communities have expressed apprehensions, and keeping this in mind, the party leadership has decided to re-enumerate castes in the state** – CM Siddaramaia

Siddaramaiah has distanced himself from the incident, stating he was informed late and that the government did not organise the stadium event.

However, the Congress government has faced sharp criticism from the opposition BJP and JD(S), with both parties holding the chief minister and his deputy directly responsible and demanding their resignation. They have also sought a special Assembly session to discuss the incident.

The meeting also addressed the issue of "inadequate" central plan allocation to Karnataka. "They (Centre) are completely neglecting the state of Karnataka on planned allocation. The central plan allocation to Karnataka is totally unacceptable. They are marginalising Karnataka into a corner. The Modi government is doing this type of injustice to Karnataka, which is not at all acceptable," Venugopal said. **— PTI**

Elderly couple loses ₹4.79 crore in cyber scam

An elderly couple from BTM Layout was subjected to a harrowing two-and-a-half-month ordeal by fraudsters impersonating law enforcement officials, who virtually 'arrested' them and extorted ₹4.79 crore. The victim, a retired engineer who had returned to Bengaluru after working in Nigeria for 31 years, was targeted by scammers posing as bank representatives and investigating agencies.

The victim, Manjunath, who now resides in BTM Layout with his wife, was contacted in March by fraudsters who claimed that his credit card limit was overdue. Gaining his trust, they extracted his bank details and later escalated the threat by sending him a forged warrant alleging illegal money transfers through his account. They falsely claimed the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the CBI had registered a case against him and threatened to jail him in Tihar unless he paid up. The scammers extorted the money in stages and even demanded property documents when Manjunath expressed his inability to pay further. Distressed by continuous harassment, he filed a complaint with the Southeast Division's CEN Police Station.

The police arrested two accused Narayan Singh Chaudhary and Ishwar Singh in Hyderabad. Interrogation revealed that a portion of the scammed money was spent in a Sri Lankan casino. Police have frozen ₹1.60 crore in Chaudhary's account and additional funds in Singh's account. Two suspects, Ishwar Singh and Narayan Singh Chaudhary, were arrested in Hyderabad.

According to police, ₹10 lakh was traced to Ishwar Singh's account and ₹1.8 lakh to Narayan Singh's. The probe revealed that the duo had visited a casino in Sri Lanka, where some of the scammed money was funneled. **— BMB**

Karnataka doing better than others, but scaling up will help

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

E-waste Rules have brought 106 items of electrical and electronic equipment under Schedule I.

What does e-waste include?

E-Waste means electrical and electronic equipment, including solar photovoltaic modules or panels or cells, whole or in part, discarded as waste, as well as rejects from manufacturing, refurbishment, and repair processes. While this category of waste contains useful material of economic benefit, such as plastics, iron, glass, aluminum, copper, precious metals such as silver, gold, platinum, etc, and rare earth elements, there is a considerable amount of hazardous substances such as lead, cadmium, mercury and other toxic substances.

Solid waste management experts caution that this component of waste can cause health risks and damage to the environment if opened up and attempts are made to retrieve useful components or material in an unscientific manner. As per the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022, every manufacturer, producer, recycler, refurbisher and dismantler involved in manufacture, sale, transfer, purchase, refurbishing, dismantling, recycling and processing of e-waste or electrical and electronic equipment listed in Schedule I, is responsible to safe disposal of this category of waste known as extended producer responsibility.

Under the EPR, producers have been given phase-wise obligations as recycling targets of e-waste, which came into effect from April 1, 2023.

Strengthening the reverse supply chain is an important step in the scientific management of e-waste, experts opine. "Apart from increasing the number of e-waste processing units, focus should also be on a robust reverse supply chain of electronic items and goods. Thus, collection becomes a challenge, leading to unsafe disposal. Having said that, the 47 e-waste units that are yet to be commissioned should be expedited," said a city-based solid waste management expert.

Business as usual in fuel stations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bunk owners put onus on customers

A petrol pump owner from the city, who did not wish to be named, said, "We had installed water tanks and taps, but they were stolen. It's not feasible to maintain any facility." Shockingly, many fuel bunks don't even provide toilets for their own employees, especially in cases where female staff are employed – a clear indication of the owners' negligence.

Inspections only in name

According to government rules, officials from the Weights and Measures Department must inspect each bunk monthly and report to the administration. However, there are growing public complaints that officials simply visit, click photos, and leave without any proper checks. It's alleged that some are even accepting favours from the pump owners.

Fuel being sold illegally

In several rural areas on the outskirts of the city, petrol is being sold illegally in small shops at inflated rates – ₹125 per litre compared to the official rate of ₹100. In some places, adulterated fuel has been found. Despite this, oil companies have failed to take action, and no formal complaints have reached the district administration. At some bunks along national highways, toilet buildings exist but are locked and inaccessible to the public. As a result, the intended benefit of such infrastructure is lost.

Even air is not free

As per guidelines, customers who purchase fuel should be provided free air to fill their tyres. However, in most bunks across the district, this facility is missing. Only newly opened stations seem to follow this rule. At older outlets, air compressors are either broken, rusted, or missing altogether. Some don't offer air citing a lack of staff.

Many petrol bunks lack proper lighting, and essential customer service features. Several customers have also complained about being cheated on fuel quantity and have gotten into arguments with owners. Vinay Prasad, a customer, added that oil companies are not taking adequate responsibility for their designated areas. "Each company has sales officers responsible for monitoring. Bunk owners who fail to provide facilities should be fined. But due to lack of strict enforcement, customers continue to suffer," he said.

Thug Life plea: SC asks petitioners to go to HC

The Supreme Court declined an urgent hearing regarding a petition from the Karnataka Theatres Association requesting protection against threats from fringe groups opposing the Tamil film Thug Life, featuring Kamal Haasan.

The petitioners, filing under Article 32 of the Constitution, stated that certain organisations had issued explicit threats to incinerate Karnataka theatres planning to screen the film. The production house was compelled to seek legal protection due to escalating threats, as presented before a Vacation Bench led by Justice PK Mishra.

Justice Mishra rejected the petition's urgency, stating, "If you are afraid the theatres might be set on fire, keep fire extinguishers ready." He suggested the petitioners seek redress from the High Court, noting the case did not require Supreme Court intervention. "Why file an Article 32 petition here? Go to the High Court," he stated. **BMB**

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I, YAMUNA GANESH, aged 52 years, D/o. G. Ganesh, Residing at No.87, Katha No.21/2, Kullegowdapala, MTM Layout, Golahalli Kumbalagodu Kengeri, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560074, have changed my name from YAMUNA GANESHA to YAMUNA GANESH, Vide affidavit dated: 09.01.2025 before notary JAIN SWARNAMALA, Bengaluru.

I, Prethwi Raj Sreebala Vadakumpuram W/O Chandra Sekhar Ajay Agatamudi aged about 28 years residing at No.8,Gateway Park,Siddapura Road, Nallurahalli, Whitefield Post, Bengaluru-560066, wish to change my mother's name from VADAKUMPURAM VIMALA RAJ to EZHANIKKATTU NARAYANAN VIMALA RAJ in my passport vide affidavit dtd:07/06/2025 sworn before notary Uday Kumar K, B'luru

I Madhuri Kulkarni W/O, Karthik Hawaldar R/o No 61/1a Sukhvasa Spoorthi Flat No 006, Near Gutte Anjeneya Swamy Temple Kodipalya Road, Kengeri, Bengaluru.pin Code:560060 have changed my name to Madhuri Hawaldar

I, Lakshmi Kulavanahalli Thopaiah W/O, Rangaswamy Ramegowda R/o No 12 Madhure Hobli Doddaballapura Taluk Channadevi Agrahara Kadanur Bengaluru Rural 561204 have changed my name to Lakshmi for all purposes.

I, Mohammed Shah Saqlain Azmath, R/at No.495/13, 34th Cross, 11th A Main, Near Maramma temple, Yarabnagar, BSK Bengaluru-560070 have changed my name to Mohammed Shah Saqlain, affidavit dt: 09.06.2025 Notary H.R Panduranga, B.lore

I Madhusudan Yogesh, S/o, Yogesh.B.V, Residing At, No 22, 21st Cross, Cubbonpet, Bengaluru, 560002, have changed my name to Madhusudan Agason Yogesh for all purposes.

I Sanchith, S/o, Prabhakara, Residing At, Thangamma Nilaya, Mml Opp, B Kathihally, Koppalu, B.kattihali, Hassan, 573201, have changed my name to Sanchith Prabhakara for all purposes.

I, Mahesh Beedi R/o Flat 101,slv Green Shelter , B No 412 ,5th Main Bel Layout 3rd Block ,vidyaranyapura, Bangalore-560097 have changed my minor daughter's name from Aadya to Aadya Beedi.

I, Ananya Mohite D/O, Amit Jagdish Mohite R/o The Empyrean, Phase 2b - 324, Chikkatirupathi, Malur, Kolar - 563130. Karnataka. have changed my name to Ananya Amit Mohite for all purposes.

I, Kirana N C S/o Channakeshava N T R/o Danungala Village, Mayamudi Post, Kodagu 571213 have changed my name to Kiran N C Affidavit Dt.10/06/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Mohammed Abbas S/O, Azhar Mirza R/o P-1 4th Floor Darul Qhayam Myrtle Lane Richmond Town Bangalore 560025 have changed my name to Mirza Mohammed Abbas.

I, Kavitha Thathanda Poonacha D/o Gopaldass G R/o No.66, 5th cross, main channel Rd, Saraswathipuram, Jogupalya, Ulsoor, Bengaluru 560008 have changed my name to Kavitha Gopaldass (Kavitha G) Affidavit Dt.10/06/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Sidhartha Sahoo, S/o Pitambar Sahoo, R/o No. 201, V V Grand Regency, 5th Cross, Abbaiah Reddy Layout, C. V. Raman Nagar Post, Bangalore, Karnataka – 560093, have changed my name to Sidharth Sahoo for all future purposes.

I, Shakunthala Aviraj R/o 192 Muni papaiah Building, 1st cross, Siddapura main road, whitefield, Bengaluru 560066 have changed my name to Shakunthala Munipapaiah Affidavit Dt.10/06/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Sharada Hallur B D/o Basappa Hallur R/o 14,2nd Flr kaveri Layout Dasarahalli Hebbal B'lore-560024 have changed my name to Sharda B. [B full form is Basappa]

I, Govindaiah Venkataraju R/o #61,3rd Cross, Vidyaranya nagar Bangalore -560023 have changed my name to Govindaiah for all purposes.

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COUGH IT OUT

Why won't my cough go away?

A persistent cough can be embarrassing, especially if people think you have Covid.

Coughing frequently can also make you physically tired, interfere with sleep and trigger urinary incontinence. As a GP, I have even treated patients whose repetitive forceful coughing has caused stress fractures in their ribs.

So, why do some coughs linger so long? Here are some of the most common causes – and signs you should get checked for something more serious.

Why do we cough?

The cough reflex is an important protective mechanism. Forcefully expelling air helps clear our lungs and keep them safe from irritants, infections and the risk of choking.

Some people who have long-term conditions, such as chronic bronchitis or bronchiectasis, have to cough frequently. This is because the lung's cilia – tiny hair-like structures that move mucus, debris and germs – no longer work to clear the lungs.

A wet or "productive" cough means coughing up a lot of mucus.

A cough can also be dry or "unproductive". This happens when the cough receptors in the airways, throat and upper oesophagus have become overly sensitised, triggering a cough even when there's no mucus to clear.

Causes of a chronic cough

A cough is considered chronic when it lasts longer than eight weeks in adults, or four weeks in children.

The three most common causes are:

- post-nasal drip (where mucus drips from the back of the nose into the throat)
- asthma
- acid reflux from the stomach.

These often go together. One study found 23% of people with chronic cough had two of these conditions, and 3% had all three.

This makes sense – people prone to airway allergies are more likely to develop both asthma and hayfever (allergic rhinitis). Hayfever is probably the main cause of persistent post-nasal drip.

Meanwhile, prolonged, vigorous coughing can also cause reflux, possibly triggering further coughing.

Chronic cough is the primary symptom of two other conditions, although these can be more challenging to diagnose: cough-variant asthma and eosinophilic bronchitis. Both conditions inflame the airways. However, they don't rapidly improve with ventolin (the standard clinic test to diagnose asthma).

Coughs after respiratory infections

Coughs can also persist long after a viral or bacterial infection. In children with colds, one systematic review found it took 25 days for more than 90% to be free of their cough.

After an infection, cough hypersensitivity may develop thanks to inflamed airways and over-responsive cough receptors. Even minor irritants will then trigger the coughing reflex.

The body's response to infection makes the mucus more sticky – and more difficult for the overworked, recovering cilia to clear. Allergens in the air can also more easily penetrate the upper airway's damaged lining.

This can trigger an unhelpful feedback loop that slows the body's recovery after an infection. Excessive and unhelpful coughing tends to further fatigue the recovering cilia and irritate the airway lining.

Could I still have an infection?

When a cough persists, a common concern is whether a secondary bacterial infection has followed the first viral infection, requiring antibiotics.

Simply coughing up yellow or green phlegm is not enough to tell.

To diagnose a serious chest infection, your doctor will consider the whole picture of your symptoms. For example, whether you also have shortness of breath, worsening fever or your lungs make abnormal sounds through a stethoscope.

The possibility you have undiagnosed asthma or allergies should also be considered.

What treats a persistent cough?

People with a persistent cough who are otherwise healthy may request and be prescribed antibiotics. But these rarely shorten how long your cough lasts, as irritation – not infection – is the primary cause of cough.

The most effective treatments for shifting sticky mucus from the airways are simple ones: saline nose sprays and washes, steam inhalation and medicated sore throat sprays.

Honey has also been shown to reduce throat irritation and the need to cough.

The effectiveness of cough syrup is less clear. As these mixtures have potential side effects, they should be used with care.

Signs of something more serious

Sometimes, a cough that won't go away could be the sign of a serious condition, including lung cancer or unusual infections. Fortunately, these aren't common.

To rule them out, Australia's chronic cough guidelines recommend a chest x-ray and spirometry (which tests lung volume and flow) for anyone presenting to their doctor with a chronic cough.

You should seek prompt medical attention if, in addition to your cough, you:

- cough up blood
- produce a lot of phlegm
- are very short of breath, especially when resting or at night
- have difficulty swallowing
- lose weight or have a fever
- have recurring pneumonia
- are a smoker older than 45, with a new or changed cough.

What if there's no clear cause?

Very occasionally, despite thorough testing and treatment, a cough persists. This is called refractory chronic cough.

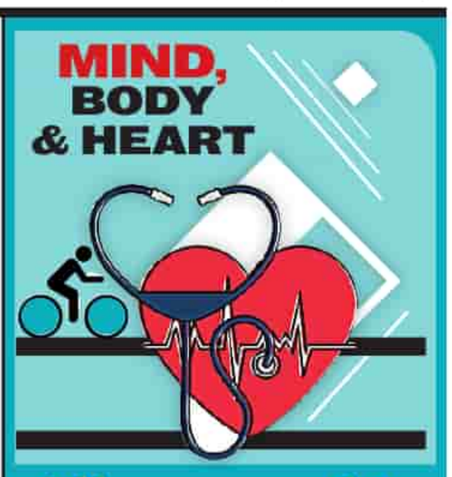
When no cause can be identified, it's known as unexplained chronic cough. In the past, unexplained cough may have been diagnosed as a "psychogenic" or "habit" cough, a term which has fallen from favour.

We now understand that cough hypersensitivity makes a person cough out of proportion to the trigger, and that both the peripheral and central nervous systems play a role in this. But our understanding of the relationship between hypersensitivity and chronic cough remains incomplete.

These are disabling conditions and should be referred to a respiratory clinic or a chronic cough specialist. Speech pathology treatments may also be effective for refractory and unexplained coughs.

There are a class of new medications in the pipeline that block cough receptors, and seem promising for persisting, troublesome coughs.

(By David King, The University of Queensland, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Parkinson's disease

Gut, mouth bacteria
Bacteria in the mouth and gut may play a significant role in the progression of cognitive decline in Parkinson's disease, according to a study.

Serious impact on disease
Specific changes in the gut microbiome have been associated with the shift from mild memory issues to dementia, a common and distressing symptom of the disease.

Early warning signs
While Parkinson's is currently very difficult to diagnose in its early stages, these changes in the microbiome could potentially act as early warning signs of Parkinson's, said the researchers from King's College London.
It may help doctors detect and treat the disease before symptoms become severe.

Bacteria link
"The human gut and oral bacterial communities are increasingly linked to neurodegenerative diseases. Disruptions in the gut-brain axis could trigger inflammation and immune responses that contribute to neuronal damage," said Dr. Saeed Shoaie, group leader of the Quantitative Systems Biology (QTS) Lab at King's College London, UK.

From mouth to gut
Study results showed that in people with cognitive impairment, the gut contains more harmful bacteria, many of which likely come from the mouth. This process, known as "oral-gut translocation," involves oral bacteria moving into the gut, where they don't normally belong. These bacteria were found to release specific molecules known as virulence factors, toxins that can damage gut tissue, promote inflammation, and possibly affect the brain. "We don't yet know if the bacteria are causing the cognitive decline or if changes in the body due to Parkinson's allow these bacteria to grow. But our findings suggest they may play an active role in worsening symptoms," said Dr. Frederick Clasen, research associate at King's. —IANS

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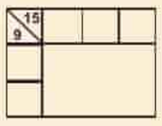
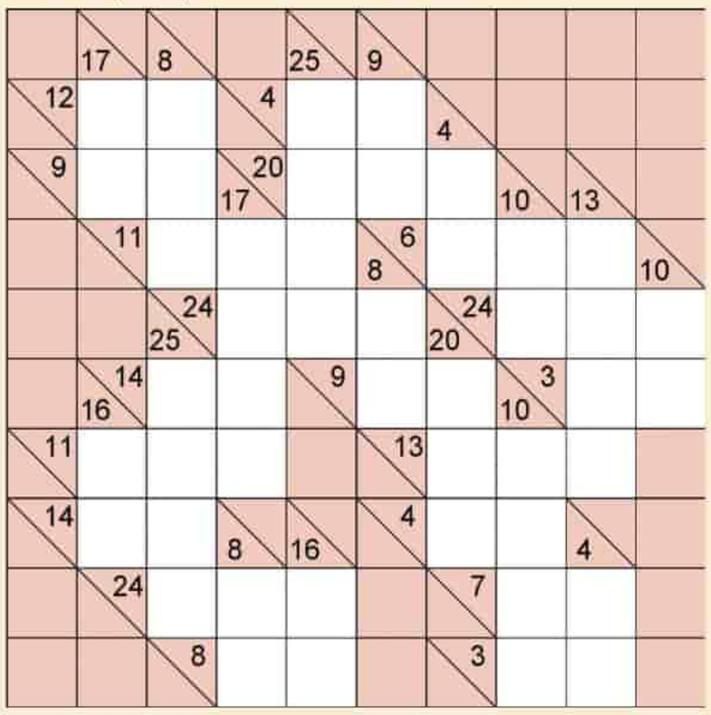
Kakuro

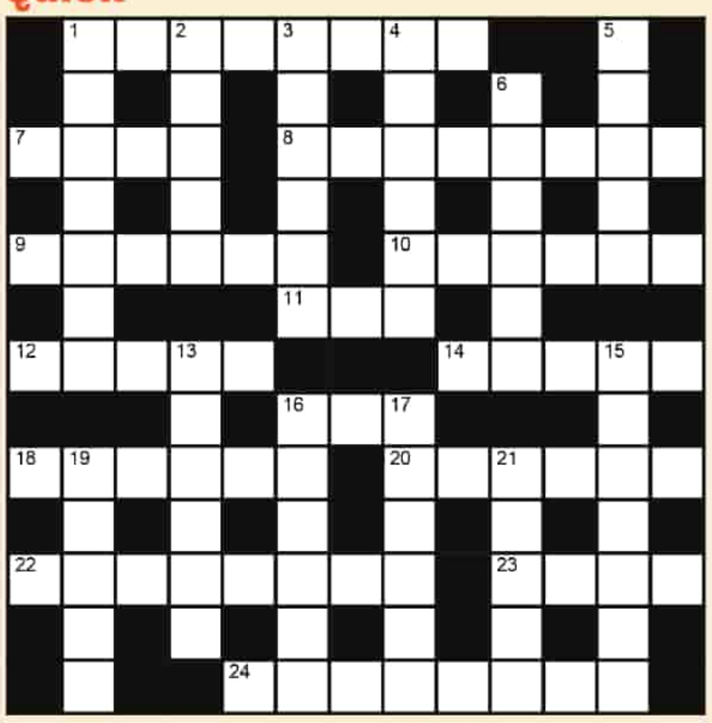
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Not my __ __ __ : not something to my liking? (3,2,3)
7 Irish parliament (4)
8 Attendance check (4,4)
9 ___ Menuhin : famous U.S. violin virtuoso? (6)
10 Japanese hostess (6)
11 Dawn to dusk (3)
12 This may be used on a bed (5)
14 Stolen property dealer (5)
16 An ugly old woman (3)
18 Karnataka's popular idli variant (6)
20 Fervour; zeal (6)
22 Partial or unfair? (3-5)
23 Quiet period (4)
24 Immensity (8)

DOWN

1 French castle (7)
2 Indian rice dish (5)
3 Don't allow? (6)
4 A speech in praise (6)
5 Excessive dirt (5)
6 Old letter-writer (6)
13 Most recent (6)
15 Brutality (7)
16 Restrained (4,2)
17 A male goose (6)
19 Follows or pursues with a gun, perhaps (5)
21 ___ Lama is spiritual leader of Tibet? (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: B EQUALS N

FIYCY DU NQUPMKFYMA BP DBYJDFNQDMDFA NU MPBL NU FIYCY DU N SDMMDBLBYUU FP TPBFYZXMNFY SINF DU INXX-YBDBL

Linemaro

When I first saw you, I looked for a signature, because every masterpiece has one

Mindchow

To love means loving the unlovable. To forgive means pardoning the unpardonable. Faith means believing the unbelievable. Hope means hoping when everything seems hopeless

Joke of the day

My girlfriend and I almost didn't have the second date because on the first date I didn't open the car door for her... I just swam to the surface

Loop

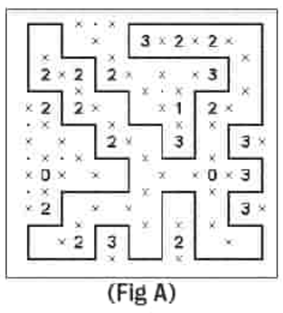
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

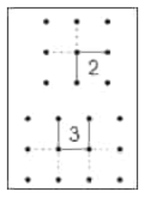
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

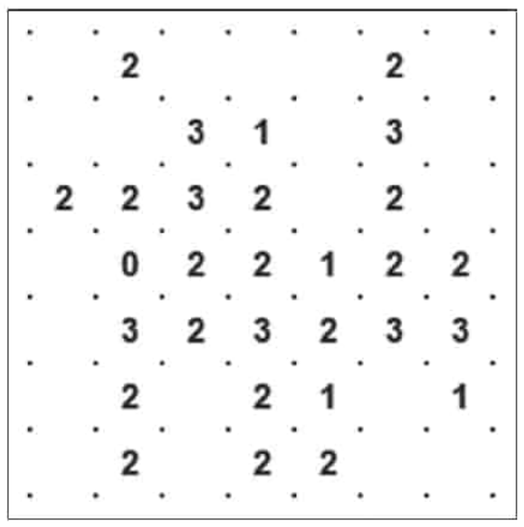
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



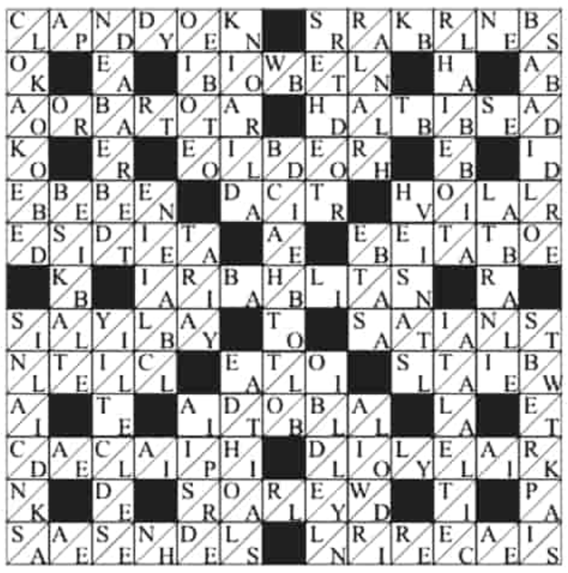
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



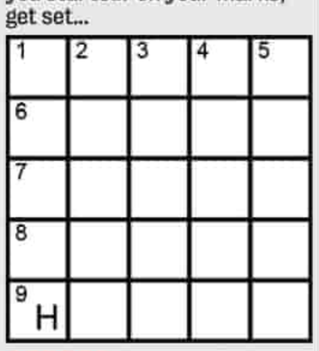
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Prays; 6 Oared; 7 Troys; 8 Teen C; 9 Shale

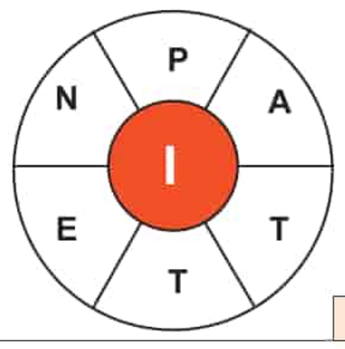
DOWN

1 Chart; 2 At day; 3 Loser; 4 Peron; 5 Essey

Mensapuzzle

Maria has a large climbing vine outside her house, which doubles in height every year. Since planting the vine six years ago, it has grown to 26 feet. How many years did it take to grow to half this height?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; **08** Good; **10** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

2	8						1	7
4								8
3	6		5		8		9	4
			4		6			
		7				1		
			3		7			
5	2		6		9		8	1
9								3
7	4						6	2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 11

1 2 4 6

Medium

= 40

2 2 5 8

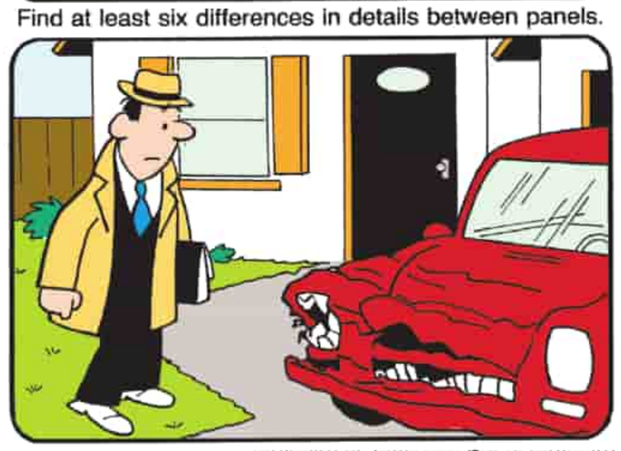
Hard

= 18

2 6 8 8

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



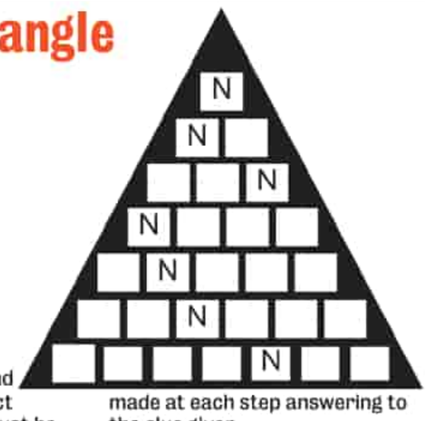
Differences: 1. Bumper is different. 2. Door is wider. 3. Arm is longer. 4. Foot is moved. 5. Rear view mirror is missing. 6. Garage door is missing.

Riddler

Seemingly small and perhaps very old My kind are a multitude untold You may think that you understand me But what I am now is not what you see Despite my emission of tremendous light Most of the time I'm obscured from your sight My extreme heat may be a well-known trait But if not too massive, cooling is my fate What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 One of the poles
2 Neon symbol
3 Animal lair
4 Requirement
5 Wrapped up
6 Just said no
7 Broadened



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

I TOLD YOU POPEYE'S GHOST WOULDN'T LIKE YOU PESTERING ME!
YEAH!
IT'S A TRICK! THERE AIN'T NO SUCH THING AS GHOSTS!
9-13
YER ABSOLUKELY RIGHT, BRUTUS!
SMACK!
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

You're under arrest for using 'tis and 'twas outside of December without a poetic license.
GRAMMAR POLICE
BIZARRO.COM
Wayno & Piraro 3-5-25
©2025 Bizarro Studios

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

MY NAME'S KAT. WHO ARE YOU VISITING?
I'M JENNY, AND I'M NOT SEEING ANYONE IN PARTICULAR. JUST GIVING THEM SOME COMPANY. CHECKING OUT ANY NEW NEIGHBORS.
I'M VISITING MY DAD. HE'S NOT NEW, BUT HE LIKES COMPANY TOO.
IN LOVING MEMORY
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

HAVE YOU GUYS WARMED UP, CHASING BALLS ALL OVER THE PLACE?
AS READY AS WE'LL EVER BE, I GUESS...
BEDSIDE MANOR
TELL YOU WHAT... JUST TO MAKE IT INTERESTING... WHAT DO YOU SAY WE PLAY FOR A CASE OF 'BOOST'?
3-5
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Today brings joy and positive outcomes. Financial losses may turn into gains, and your seniors are likely to recognise and appreciate your efforts. Changes at work—such as a promotion or a shift in responsibilities—are possible. Hidden enemies or workplace rivals may be subdued. Singles and couples may take important steps toward marriage, possibly with help from family or friends.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Circumstances are more favourable today, and you'll likely feel better mentally and emotionally. You may plan overseas travel, and your professional network could assist you in work-related matters. Domestic harmony improves, and your creativity is heightened. You may bring home or office décor items, or plan a movie outing or other entertainment with loved ones.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

At the start of the week, financial gains are likely. You'll manage a healthy balance between income and expenses, boosting your savings. Job performance improves, and your boss may entrust you with new responsibilities, possibly indicating a promotion. You may recover money previously lent, and adversaries will be under control. Your health will also show improvement.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Today, you may plan home renovations or purchase decorative items to enhance your home's ambience and social appeal. Harmony is likely to grow in your relationship with your spouse, while disputes with friends, coworkers, or business partners may begin to settle. Good news is possible concerning legal matters.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Today, you're supported by a positive Moon. You'll feel healthier, and old health concerns may be resolved. Funds that were stuck may be recovered, and you might consider applying for a loan to purchase luxury items or make a significant investment.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

With Jupiter's blessings, confidence and decisiveness are high today. You're ready to make bold decisions without hesitation and may seize promising opportunities. Expect to spend money on family and friends. Lovebirds can enjoy quality time together, while job seekers may find suitable positions with help from their network.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

You may feel emotionally low and uninspired today. Arrogance may affect both your professional and personal relationships. A lack of confidence could hinder your creativity and performance at work. It's a good day to take things slow and avoid unnecessary interactions.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Energy levels are high today, allowing you to perform efficiently. Your hard work will begin to yield results, boosting your confidence. Property disputes with siblings may move toward resolution. A meeting with an influential person could strengthen your professional network.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

The Moon blesses you with happiness today. Your communication skills may help you secure a large order or business deal. You'll maintain politeness in interactions and may take some bold but necessary business decisions with your team's support.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Today is promising under the Moon's favour. You'll feel energetic and enjoy work, as well as romantic moments with your spouse, fostering domestic harmony. You may initiate plans for a new project, where your precision will be valuable. Job seekers may find suitable opportunities. Lovebirds should avoid unnecessary discussions to keep the peace.

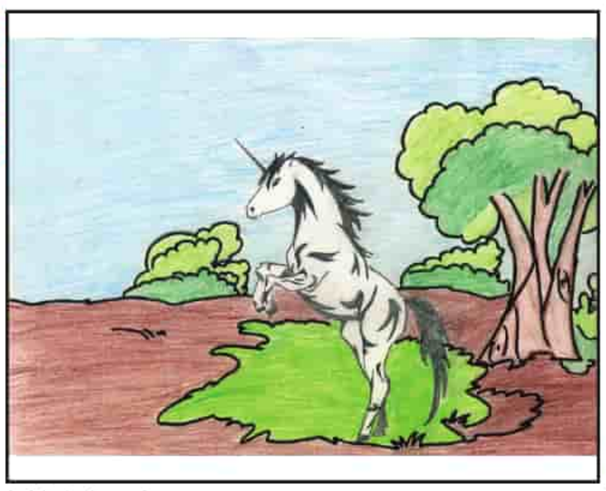
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

You may feel disappointed today. It's important to manage your ego, especially in conversations, as careless words could lead to losses or strained relationships. Lovebirds should tread carefully during discussions, as conflicts may arise.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

A sense of peace fills your mind today. You may plan a business investment that improves liquidity and boosts financial stability. Romantic time with your spouse will enhance family harmony. Singles may find a compatible match, and couples might consider marriage. Students are likely to benefit from their past good deeds.

KIDZONE



Safi Baig, Bengaluru

Arush, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
750×25/100
= 375/2
= 187.5

BULL'S EYE
inapt, inept, pain, paint, PATIENT, pine, pint, taint, tine, tint

FAST FIVE

R	A	S	P	Y
A	D	O	R	E
T	Y	R	O	S
C	T	E	N	E
H	A	L	E	S

RIDDLER
A star

STRIKE OUT

C	A	N	Y	O	N	■	S	A	B	R
O	R	A	T	O	R	■	D	A	B	B
K	R	E	I	D	E	R	■	B	E	D
E	B	E	N	■	A	I	R	■	V	I
D	I	D	I	T	■	A	■	B	E	T
A	R	A	B	I	A	N	■	A	■	■
B	■	A	R	■	O	■	A	T	I	L
N	E	I	L	■	E	L	O	■	S	T
A	■	E	■	A	T	O	L	■	A	■
C	A	L	I	P	H	■	D	O	L	L
K	■	D	■	S	O	L	E	D	■	I
S	A	S	H	E	S	■	N	I	E	C

QUICK

C	U	P	O	F	T	E	A	■	F	■
D	A	I	L	■	R	O	L	L	C	A
H	■	I	■	O	■	U	■	S	■	I
■	Y	E	H	U	D	I	■	G	E	I
A	■	■	■	■	■	■	D	A	Y	■
Q	U	I	L	■	T	■	■	■	■	B
T	H	A	T	■	E	A	R	G	■	■
O	N	E	S	I	D	E	D	■	■	■
U	■	E	■	L	■	N	■	A	■	■
T	■	■	■	T	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
5 years.

QUOTE UNCODE
There is absolutely no inevitability as long as there is a willingness to contemplate what is happening.

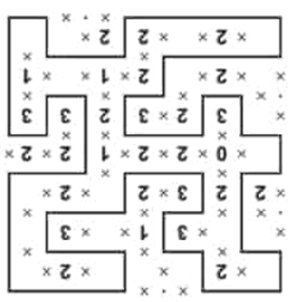
SUDOKU

7	4	8	1	5	3	9	6	2
9	1	6	7	8	2	4	5	3
5	2	3	6	4	9	7	8	1
1	5	4	3	9	7	8	2	6
6	3	7	8	2	5	1	4	9
8	9	2	4	1	6	3	7	5
3	6	1	5	7	8	2	9	4
4	7	9	2	6	1	5	3	8
2	8	5	9	3	4	6	1	7

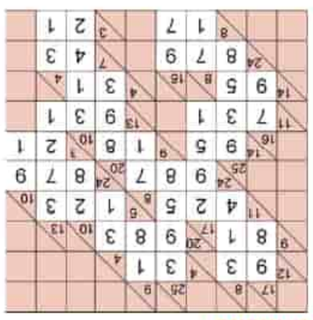
ALPHA TRIANGLE
N, Ne, Den, Need, Ended, Denied, Widened.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 2 + 6 − 1 = 11
Medium
5 × 2 × 8 / 2 = 40
Hard
2 × 8 − 6 + 8 = 18

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # Pay delay
Amanda Seyfried alleges Paramount owes her "some money" for 'Mean Girls' merchandise

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Suspense thriller

Sachin, the son of Minister for Agriculture N Cheluvarayaswamy, has been busy with the shooting of his third movie Kamal Sridevi, a suspense thriller. Prior to this, Sachin has acted in Happy Birthday and Bangalore Boys. Now, he is bankrolling the movie along with Rajavardhan apart from playing the lead.

"I am satisfied with the pre-production works and the shooting of the movie till date. The remaining portion of the shooting will be completed in five days. Major portion of the movie's shooting was held in and around Bengaluru," said Sachin.

When asked what made him co-produce the film, he said it was because of the interesting script. "VA Sunil Kumar, who handled the megaphone forGajarama, is the director for Kamal Sridevi. The movie is story-oriented and will keep audiences guessing," he said.

The hero-cum-producer said that he would announce the name of the heroine within a few days. "I do not want to reveal the name of the heroine right now. All I can say is that she is from Karnataka and has already acted in a few Kannada movies," he said.

The film, bankrolled by Dhanalakshmi BK under the Swarnambika banner and Rajavardhan under the Barn Swallow Company banner, features Kishore, Ramesh Indira, Sangeetha Bhat and others.

On education

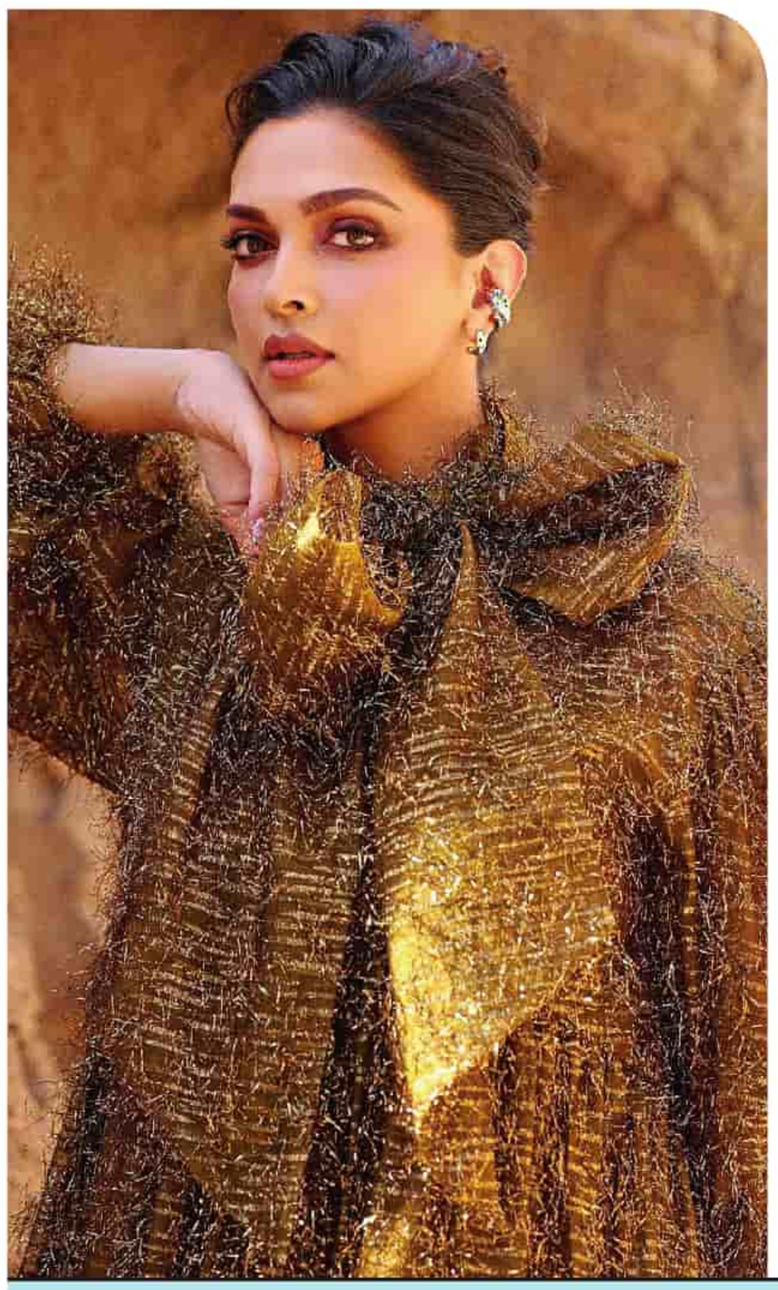
MR Kapil, who started out as a choreographer, is making preparations to launch his 10th directorial Ondu Sundara Devvvada Kathe on June 23. Kapil made debut as a director with Halli Sogadu in 2017. The team of the movie has unveiled the poster of the movie recently.

"I am happy to get this opportunity. The movie is about a security guard and six girl students who are cheated by middlemen who promise to get them admission in reputed colleges. The movie conveys a message to society, especially students and parents, about how manipulative middlemen," said Kapil.

He said the movie will also encourage students to focus on education. "The movie also conveys a message on the ill-effects of getting admission to educational institutions via donations," the director said.

The movie is being bankrolled by Shobhavathi Kapil under the Bhanu Prithvi 100 Marks Films banner. Kapil, apart from directing the movie, is also its choreographer. Action choreographer Kaurav Venkatesh debuts as a hero in Sandalwood with this movie. "We released the poster on the occasion of Kaurav Venkatesh's birthday. The movie will go on floors on June 23," he said, adding that Venkatesh will play the security guard who helps the students.

SPORTY BIRTHDAY GIFT



DP sets ups 75 coaching centres on badminton legend dad's birthday

On the special occasion of her father Prakash Padukone's 70th birthday, actress Deepika Padukone launched 75 coaching centers under the Padukone School of Badminton (PSB) across 18 cities in India.

The initiative, which Deepika both founded and funds, aims to provide professional badminton training while promoting health, discipline, and sportsmanship.

PSB will operate in major cities including Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, NCR, Pune, Mysuru, Jaipur, Dehradun, Coimbatore, and others.

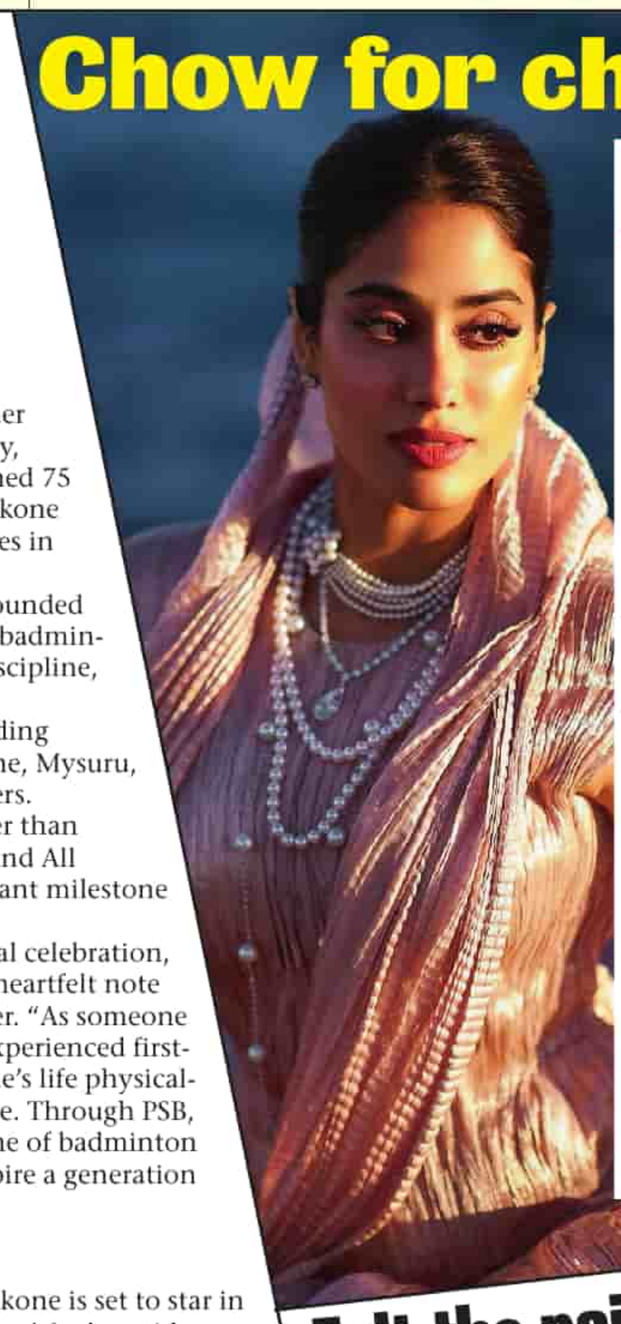
The school is mentored by none other than Prakash Padukone, former world No. 1 and All England Champion, making it a significant milestone in Indian badminton.

Marking the personal and professional celebration, Deepika took to social media to share a heartfelt note along with a picture of her and her father. "As someone who grew up playing badminton, I've experienced firsthand how much this sport can shape one's life physically, mentally, and emotionally," she wrote. Through PSB, she hopes to "bring the joy and discipline of badminton to people from all walks of life" and inspire a generation that is healthier and more focused.

Big-ticket film

On the professional front, Deepika Padukone is set to star in director Atlee's upcoming project, AA22 x A6, alongside Telugu superstar Allu Arjun. This marks Deepika's first foray into South Indian cinema and the first collaboration among the trio. —ETimes

Chow for cheat days



Fitness and food often walk a tightrope in celebrity life, and Janhvi Kapoor seems to have mastered the balance. The actress also firmly believes in indulging herself once in a while. And when she does, it's not just a bite here or a nibble there; Janhvi just goes all in.

In a chat with Curly Tales, the star opened up about her guilty food pleasures and what truly excites her taste buds on a cheat day. From comforting home-cooked dishes to crowd-favourite fast foods, Janhvi's cravings are both relatable and deeply rooted in nostalgia.

One of the most favourite dishes Janhvi mentioned when talking about her cheat meals was paya. This slow-cooked delicacy made from goat trotters is often prepared overnight, steeping in a mix of earthy spices and herbs. For Janhvi, it's not just a dish, but it's a memory. Janhvi also has a strong love for cheesy pasta, especially creamy, rich versions that offer a full carb-and-cheese overload. Whether it's a classic Alfredo, a four-cheese penne, or a baked mac and cheese, she enjoys piling on the cheese and savoring every bite. —ETimes

Shooting in a dump yard

Actor Dhanush, who plays the lead along with Telugu star Nagarjuna and Rashmika Mandanna in director Sekhar Kammula's eagerly awaited upcoming entertainer 'Kuberaa', has now disclosed that Rashmika and he had to shoot in a dumpyard for six to seven hours for a sequence in the film.

Dhanush, who participated in an event organised to release the single 'Pippi Pippi Dum Dum Dum' from the film in Mumbai, was asked about memorable incidents that happened while shooting for the film. "Rashmika and I shot in a dumpyard for six-seven hours," Dhanush said, and jokingly added, "Rashmika was alright. She was like "I can't smell anything."

The actor, in a serious tone, then said, "I read a lot of things that said that we shot with masks... it was not that big a deal. It was fine. But to see another part of the world, a side which you are not exposed to... You are always in your comfort zone where you are really comfortable.You do what's convenient. To be protected. At least some of us are very protected. I come from there. I come from very humble, rooted beginnings. Today, I am here by God's grace. I have seen that. To go back there to see that world again was very enlightening and nostalgic..." —IANS

Felt the pain of retaliatory lawsuit: Blake

After a judge on Monday dismissed Justin Baldoni's USD 400 million defamation claim against Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds, the couple's publicist Leslie Sloane and the 'Gossip Girl' actress spoke out about the decision on social media, according to E! News.

"Like so many others, I've felt the pain of a retaliatory lawsuit, including the manufactured shame that tries to break us," she wrote in a post on her Instagram Stories, adding, "While the suit against me was defeated, so many don't have the resources to fight back," according to E! News.

She shared further that she is "more resolved than ever" to "stand for every woman's right to have a voice in protecting themselves" before sharing a list of organisations dedicated to causes including women's rights, domestic violence and employment law, according to E! News.. —ANI